

What is claimed is:

1. A method of caching information relating to a set of data items, comprising:  
in a first retrieval operation, retrieving and storing into a memory only a first hierarchical level of information corresponding to at least one of the data items; and  
in a second retrieval operation separate from the first retrieval operation, retrieving and storing into the memory only a second hierarchical level of information corresponding to the at least one of the data items.
2. The method of caching information recited in claim 1, wherein the data items are electronic data files.
3. The method of caching information recited in claim 2, wherein the electronic data files are electronic mail message data files.
4. The method of caching information recited in claim 1, wherein the first level of hierarchical information is at least one identifier for uniquely identifying each of the at least one of the data items.
5. The method of caching information recited in claim 4, wherein the second level of hierarchical information is metadata for each of the at least one of the data items.
6. The method of caching information recited in claim 5, wherein the metadata includes one or more data selected from the group consisting of: a title of the at least one of the data items, a subject of the at least one of the data items, an author of the at least one of the data items, and a size of the at least one of the data items.
7. The method of caching information recited in claim 4, wherein the second level of hierarchical information is content for each of the at least one of the data items.

8. The method of caching information recited in claim 4, wherein the second level of hierarchical information is an attachment to each of the at least one of the data items.

9. The method of caching information recited in claim 1, further including:  
in a third retrieval operation separate from the first and second retrieval operations, retrieving and storing into the memory only a third hierarchical level of information corresponding to the at least one of the data items.

10. The method of caching information recited in claim 9, wherein the third level of hierarchical information is content for each of the at least one of the data items.

11. The method of caching information recited in claim 9, wherein the third level of hierarchical information is an attachment to each of the at least one of the data items.

12. The method of caching information recited in claim 9, further including:  
in a fourth retrieval operation separate from the first, second and third retrieval operations, retrieving and storing into the memory only a fourth hierarchical level of information corresponding to the at least one of the data items.

13. The method of caching information recited in claim 9, wherein the fourth level of hierarchical information is an attachment to each of the at least one of the data items.

14. The method of caching information recited in claim 1, wherein  
the first retrieval operation is initiated in response to receiving a first trigger, and  
the second retrieval operation is initiated in response to receiving a second trigger different from the first trigger.

15. The method of caching information recited in claim 14, wherein at least one of the first trigger and the second trigger is predictive indicator predicting a user's preferences for retrieving information from the set of data items.